



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Recommendation to the Commission

**Party Submitting Recommendation:** CISC - Suicide Prevention Gap Analysis Sub-Committee

**Date of Submission:** 12/8/2020

**Type of Action Requested:**

Legislation     Administrative Rule or Policy     Resolution of Support or Endorsement     Professional/skills development

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance (check all that apply):**

Child Health and Safety     Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth  
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse     Educational Outcomes

**Summary of Recommendation:**

Legislatively mandate that Indiana Schools that are selected for the CDC Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance Survey (YRBSS) complete the survey.

**Background of Recommendation:**

What is the need or problem, and how does it impact disparate populations?

Every two years, on the odd year, the CDC selects nearly 50 schools across Indiana that represents a complete demographic picture of the state. If the survey is not completed in at least 60% of selected schools, then Indiana does not receive its weighted data from the CDC, because the data collected is not considered to be representative of the entire state. This means that it is not possible for Indiana leaders to have a clear picture of risks to youth across the state.

Currently, 2015 is the latest year that Indiana had enough YRBSS participation to receive weighted data. Indiana did not have sufficient participation in 2013, 2017, or 2019. Indiana state agencies have consistently submitted complete and detailed grant applications over the last three years to the CDC and were not selected. The vast majority (98%) of states selected complete and are current with the YRBSS.

This keeps millions of federal dollars for assistance in high need areas out of Indiana. Schools are not fully aware of why it is important to complete the YRBSS.

What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?

CDC grant selections; as well as, how Indiana compares to other states in completing the YRBSS (See Introductory Data Presentation).

What disproportionality did the data reveal?

YRBSS is a major source of data about disparate populations of youth. Not having complete YRBSS participation makes it difficult to understand how different groups of youth may be impacted differently by various risk factors. Completion of YRBSS will allow the state to have the data it needs to address disproportionate risks to different groups of youth, thereby promoting the wellbeing of all youth.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

Indiana has struggled with the need to complete consent for students to answer questions regarding suicide attempts. This has been discussed last session; however, it was thought that every school in the state must complete the YRBSS survey; however, only 50 schools in all of the 350+ school districts are selected by the CDC to complete the 45-55 minutes survey.

What solution is the recommender proposing, and how does it affect disparate populations?

Mandate through legislation that schools selected by the CDC to complete the YRBSS, complete the YRBSS.

How does the solution address the disproportionality in the data?

N/A

**If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.**

N/A – None known at this time

**If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.**

N/A – None known at this time

**If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.**

N/A